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SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I don't think it's a rule, but what happens, generally, is they are not transferred to them facilities if they haven't finished their programming.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And is it still the case that they have quite a waiting list to participate in those programs for alcohol and anger and so forth; that there is a waiting list to participate in those?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: The waiting list for mental health, substance abuse, and the other programs that are offered are unbelievable. Yes, there is a long waiting list for these programs, and it is because we haven't been able to offer all the programs and we end up, and if I may just take just a couple of seconds here, many people don't get paroled because they haven't finished their programs, so we end up keeping them till they jam their time and basically reaching the ultimate length of time they can be in prison. They go out without the programs anyway.

SENATOR BROMM: And isn't that, in fact, one of the major factors in our climbing prison population as much as...I mean we hear all the publicity with getting tough laws and all that, but isn't, in fact, what you just described one of the primary reasons why we have such an increasing prison population?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: It is one of the big reasons, yes, it is, Senator.

SENATOR BROMM: And is there anything being done to change that, that you know of?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: At this point, Senator, I don't think so. I don't think the money is there, or the programs are there, and quite often they are asked to repeat and repeat different programs and do it over again before they can get out anyway.

SENATOR BROMM: But if the money, I mean there is obviously a lot of money there that we're spending on corrections, and isn't it a matter of figuring out a way to prioritize the use of that money?